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BWA Aids Polio War

MIAMI BEACH (BP) — The Baptist World Alliance (BWA) has commended to its 100 member bodies a goal to contribute \$1 million of a \$3 million project to immunize the world's population against poliomyelitis, the paralyzing and often fatal disease that perhaps next to smallpox has been one of the earth's most dreaded plagues in this century.

The action by the BWA General Council to set a goal to raise one third of the project's cost came in adoption of a report of the BWA division committee on relief and development.

The remaining funds will be raised by the Jonas Salk Institute and the Brother's Brother Foundation headed by Dr. Robert A. Hingson.

In 1953, Dr. Salk discovered anti-poliomyelitis vaccine that resulted in the practical elimination of severe crippling and death of thousands of children and hundreds of adults.

He has recently improved his vaccine to a high-potency effectiveness in a single injection. The new formula does not require refrigeration and is thus useful in tropical countries where the older type vaccine was severely limited.

Dr. Hingson, a Baptist deacon living in Pittsburgh, developed a jet immunization gun that has the capability of injecting vaccine at the rate of 5,000 persons per hour.

He led a survey of world health needs in 1958 and 1962, both under BWA sponsorship, demonstrating the instrument's effectiveness by immunizing 80 percent of Liberia against smallpox and eliminating that disease from the West African country. On the basis of this demonstration, the World Health Organization undertook a smallpox eradication program that has virtually eliminated this deadly disease from the world.

In adopting the resolution to join the two doctors in a campaign against polio, the BWA General Council declared: "We desire to magnify the Biblical command, Arise, take up thy bed and walk."

The concept for the three-party relationship (Salk, Hingson, and BWA) was born at the June 1977 biennial meetings of American Baptist Churches in the USA, in San Diego. The ABC presented its 1977 Dahlberg Peace Award to Dr. Hingson, recognizing his leadership of the successful campaign against smallpox. The world-renowned Dr. Salk learned of the award, came to observe its presentation, and came to the platform to congratulate Dr. Hingson on his successes.

Conversations which followed that program led to discussion of the usefulness of the jet immunization gun in applying the more effective polio vaccine. Dr. Hingson invited Robert S. Denny, BWA general secretary, to later talks — and the three-way partnership was proposed.

In Bangladesh

Teams Go Into Villages To Share God's Message

FENI, Bangladesh (BP) — The two men walk into the strange village calling, "Are there any men or boys at home? We want to talk to a man of your village."

The two men, Southern Baptist Missionary James E. Young and Bangladeshi co-worker David Biswas, are part of an extensive rural evangelism effort being carried out by missionaries and nationals here.

In Bangladesh about 98 percent of the population of 80 million lives in villages.

To bring the gospel to these people, missionaries team up with nationals and go from village to village. After making initial contact with one of the men in the community, they then ask to see the village leader.

When the leader comes, Young tells him who the two visitors are and why they have come.

The men give the leader the book, "The Men Who Gave His Life," with the suggestion that each night when the villages' work is completed that they gather to hear the book read.

In some instances the leader replies that he cannot read, but a son or nephew can.

Young says that is fine and suggests how the reading can be done each

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President Jimmy Carter, seated center, chats with 'Elizabeth Johnson, granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Owen Cooper, as he visited in the Coopers' home following a town meeting in Yazoo City. The Coopers' daughter, Nancy Gilbert, is seated at left; and her parents are between her and the President. Another daughter, Elizabeth Cooper, is seated by 'Elizabeth; and Mrs. Newton Thompson, a sister-in-law, is at right. On the floor are two grandchildren, Edith Gilbert and David Ladner. — Photo by Glenn Montgomery, Yazoo City Daily Herald.

Yazoo City Buzzing

Two Baptist Friends Visit

By Don McGregor

With a twinkle in his eye, Owen Cooper, having just seen the President of the United States on his way following the President's overnight stay in the Cooper home, said, "I don't want to get my feet back on the ground just yet. I might stump my toe."

"I don't want to recover from this visit for 4 or 5 days, he added as he continued to receive newspaper and television news people following the President's departure.

President Jimmy Carter had been in the Cooper home town of Yazoo City, Miss., on the evening of July 21 for a town meeting attended by some 2,000 people. Following the meeting the President spent the night with the Coopers.

Cooper said the visit was very exciting but that Carter is such a natural and genuine person that "you do not feel a sense of awe, you feel a sense of companionship and friendship."

Carter had taken his coat off in the heat of the Yazoo City High School gymnasium and arrived at the Coopers' house still without it. He asked his hosts if he could slip off his tie. He spent the first 10 minutes with the Cooper grandchildren who were present, Cooper indicated. Five of the six grandchildren were at the home. The President talked with them about Amy and established a rapport with them, Cooper said.

"We just sat down and talked," Cooper added. They discussed working commitments on mental health and Mrs. Carter's trip to South America, among other things. "We talked a little church, but not much," Cooper noted. "We mentioned his reading his Bible daily in Spanish, and we asked him to read a devotional thought for the evening from II Corinthians 13." Carter went upstairs to get his Spanish Bible and discovered he had left it at home. The Coopers had a paper back New Testament in Spanish, and Carter used it. Afterward he autographed it for Oscar Romo, the language missions director for the Home Mission Board, at the Coopers' request.

Following the Bible reading Ben Ladner, the Coopers' son-in-law, led the group in prayer.

The President was served homemade ice cream topped with fresh peaches. Mrs. Cooper had made the ice cream. For breakfast on Friday morning just before leaving Yazoo City Carter was served a bowl of peaches and a cup of coffee.

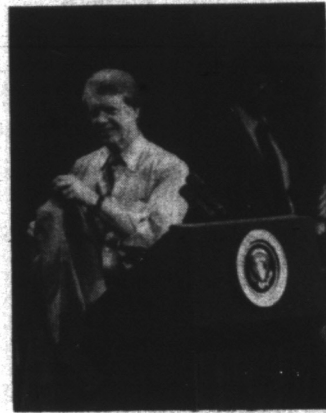


Photo by Tim Nicholas

The President retired shortly after 11 p.m. and was down for breakfast at 5:45 a.m. as scheduled almost on the dot, Cooper indicated. As they ate Cooper brought Carter up to date on the implementation of the program the President had suggested to the Southern Baptist Convention for seeking 5,000 volunteers to be engaged in missions work by 1982. Cooper related that following the breakfast at the White House when the program was proposed, the group involved in the breakfast had gone to the First Baptist Church in Washington to work on plans for implementation. He filled in the procedures being followed and told the President that the target date of having orientation in the spring for the first group seemed realistic. Carter volunteered his services if there is anything further he can do, Cooper said.

The retired industrialist, who seems to be just catching his second wind in denominational service, told the President the name selected for the program is Mission Service Corps. Following the President's departure he told an interviewer, "That thing can work."

"We've always got to approach our missions work with the possibility of being able to witness," he said, "and not back away completely because we think a door is closed."

"I had known that Jimmy Carter is a sincere, genuine Christian without pretense," Cooper declared. "When he was governor of Georgia and attended Brotherhood Commission meetings as a member, he would be there when the meeting started and not leave until it was over. His Christianity shows

(Continued on page 2)

Baptist Association

Union County Offers A Suit And A Prayer

By Jim Newton

NEW ALBANY, Miss. (BP) — It started off like a typical Bible study at a mission center here, but the way the Bible study ended was truly unique.

For almost 30 minutes, the Bible teacher, Mrs. Mickey Crutchfield, had examined the Scriptures verse by verse, explaining the Bible in clear, easy-to-understand language.

During the closing period, several men and women raised their hands asking for prayer and indicating they wanted to know more about accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Then Mrs. Crutchfield knelt, praying fervently for the people she loves so much.

After the prayer, the 35 men and

women present quickly moved into 12 adjacent rooms to pick up what they really came to get — free clothing given to them by the Union County Baptist Association.

But they got much more — a clear presentation of the gospel and compassionate concern of Christian people, in addition to the badly-needed clothing.

They call it the Union County Baptist Bible Study and Clothing Center, and it happens twice each month on Tuesday mornings.

"I only got one rule I strictly enforce," said Mrs. Crutchfield in her strong Mississippi accent. "If you don't come to the Bible study, you can't get the clothes."

Guy Culver, director of missions for Union County Baptist Association, said the Bible Study and Clothing Center is probably the most effective missions project in the association.

Since the center opened on July 6, 1974, more than 435 individuals have received both the gospel and clothing they needed.

About 45 people have accepted Jesus Christ as Savior as a result.

Mrs. Crutchfield, who has directed the center and taught the Bible studies twice monthly (except once when she was in the hospital) since the beginning, estimated that the association had given away 50,000 items of clothing in the last three years.

The center is open to anyone and everyone. About 40 percent of the people who come are black.

Regardless of race, they come from all walks of life, Mrs. Crutchfield observed. Some are alcoholics, drug addicts, prostitutes, prisoners (released just long enough to go to the center by

the nearby county jail) — but most are just people in the county who don't earn enough money to buy clothes.

About 15 "regulars" come nearly every session, but they are allowed to get clothes only once a month. Mrs. Crutchfield knows each one personally, and keeps accurate records on who attends, how often, and how many different types of clothes they receive.

Of the 30 Baptist churches in the Union County Association, every one has participated in the project by sending either clothes or volunteers to help, Mrs. Crutchfield said.

Although it is strictly a Baptist project, the clothing center has also attracted the attention and support of others. Two Glenmary Brothers from the St. Francis Catholic Church have been coming to help pass out the clothes.

"I just try to talk their language," Mrs. Crutchfield said of her Bible study — clothing ministry. "Most of them would rather come to the Bible study here than go to church. Lot of them won't go to a church 'cause they don't understand what the preacher is saying."

"It's just a gift God has given me — making the Bible plain and simple. I tell 'em that God hates sin, but He loves sinners. I don't tell 'em, 'You're not no account.' I just love 'em and God loves 'em too."

"People have got to realize," she adds, "that there's more to Christianity than meetin' behind the four walls of the church. 'Cause when you get out and help others, you're helpin' God too."

(Adapted from World Mission Journal, July, 1977.)

Baptist Work Reported Progressing In Cuba

RICHMOND (BP) — Baptist work is progressing in Cuba in spite of limited religious freedom, according to Baptist World Alliance President David Y.

K. Wong, who recently spent six days visiting Baptists in that country.

The Baptist layman from Hong Kong commented on conditions in Cuba during a visit to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board here.

Wong said that he and his wife were welcomed at the Havana airport by 50 to 60 Baptists who sang the hymn, "Onward Christian Soldiers."

"They are not permitted to preach outside of church, so the churches are full," Wong said. "With these limitations they must use the church for three meetings on Sunday, morning prayer meetings during the week, Bible studies, and prayer meetings in the evenings."

"Churches are not allowed to buy property on which to build nor to convert existing buildings into a church," he continued.

Three to four evangelistic meetings are held in each church every year, according to Wong, and last year 438 baptisms were reported in the country. There are now 227 Baptist churches with about 15,000 members, he said. Baptists in Cuba have two seminaries where, Wong said, enrollment figures were encouraging, plus two Baptist-supported camps and two homes for the aged.

Eighty percent of the Baptist churches have their own pastors, according to Wong. He said one church with 57 members has 55 who tithe.

"They need material things like printing machines," including mimeograph machines, and printed materials, Wong said.

Even with the shortage of equipment and a shortage of ink, Cuban Baptists continue to mimeograph material for use in Bible study and leadership training, he said.

Giant Missions Rally To Follow 1978 SBC

GLORIETA, N. M. (BP) — A missions rally for 16,500 Southern Baptist lay persons, with President Jimmy Carter invited to make the major address, will be held in Atlanta on June 16 under the auspices of the Brotherhood Commission.

Glendon McCullough, executive director of the Memphis-based missions agency for Southern Baptist men and boys, announced the giant missions meeting at the final session of the week-long Bold Mission Leadership Conference for 1,600 persons at Glorieta (N. M.) Baptist Conference Center.

The lay meeting will be held the day following the three-day 121st Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

McCullough said President Carter, a former trustee of the commission, has personally agreed to consider an invitation to address the lay people and will respond officially to the invitation a few months before the meeting.

Announcement of the national missions meeting came three weeks after President Carter challenged Southern Baptists at their annual meeting in Kansas City, Mo., to put another short-term, volunteer 5,000 mis-

sionaries on the field for one and two-year terms within the next five years. At the 120th meeting of the denomination, the messengers accepted the challenge by expanding the Cooperative Program giving goal and asking a denominational committee, which has already met, to plan and launch the effort.

McCullough said the meeting is one of a series of projects to provide Bold Mission opportunities for Baptist lay people at the national level during the next two years.

The commission also is providing 35,000 Southern Baptist churches with materials for conducting other Bold Mission projects in the areas of mission study, prayer, stewardship, and mission action.

Preliminary plans for the large lay rally call for up to 15 breakfast groups at the major Atlanta hotel the morning of June 16.

McCullough said the theme of the prayer breakfast will be "Ministry Through Lay People."

The groups will consider ministry opportunities in such areas as medicine, government, law enforcement, art, retirement, legal profes-

sions, agriculture, technical skills, education, communications, sports, military, sales, management, and clerical work.

McCullough said nationally known Christian leaders in every profession will lead the discussion.

In connection with the lay rally, McCullough said he will push for lay representation at the 1978 SBC in Atlanta of at least 30 percent, almost double that of previous years.

SBC President Jimmy Allen, who gave the closing address at the Brotherhood and Woman's Missionary Union leadership conference here, enthusiastically endorsed the lay rally as a Bold Mission step.

He said, "One of the exciting developments in Southern Baptist life is the discovery of the mission of men within their professions and finding ways to serve God with their skills."

"I am excited about the fact we have the massive opportunity for men of different professions to come together, to know each other in their Christian family and to understand the kind of opportunities they have to share their faith in their daily responsibilities."



An Inviting Vehicle

"I'm 'Gus the Bus', ride me, I'm free!" invites the newest addition to the bus fleet of Woodlawn Church, Vicksburg. "Gus" is a 55 passenger diesel transit. Woodlawn now operates a fleet of twelve buses.



A First Baptist Church deacon lineup for the President's visit to Yazoo City shows from left to right Owen Cooper, host for an overnight visit by the President; Floyd Johnson, mayor of Yazoo City; Charles Jackson, city alderman and senior vice-president of Mississippi Chemical Corp.; and Jerry Clower, national television personality. Mrs. Jackson sits between her husband and Clower.—Photo by Tim Nicholas

Baptist Friends Visit

(Continued from page 1)

through in meetings and in conversation."

Cooper, a member of First Baptist Church, Yazoo City, said he felt the meeting in the town on the edge of the Mississippi delta had helped the community.

"There was a wonderful feeling of cooperation in staging the event, and that cooperation can come in other ways if we will get together and work," he said.

"Our home was symbolic," he added. "The people in the city helped in many ways. The flower clubs and the civic clubs helped, and that can mean a lot. It's like winning a big football game. You build up confidence. Now I hope the town can take the confidence it has acquired from this effort and get other things accomplished because of it."

He said he felt that Yazoo City had had a good impact on the nation. The reporters were favorable to Mississippi and Yazoo City in their comments, he declared, and he said he felt the city had cast a good reflection.

A part of the cooperation was on the part of the Coopers' next door neighbors, the Charles Jacksons. Jackson is senior vice-president at Mississippi Chemical Company, a city alderman, and past chairman of deacons at First Baptist Church. He moved out of his house for the evening and turned it over to the Secret Service so that they could do their job better.

Jerry Clower, a national television personality and also a member of First Baptist Church, took part in the festivities revolving around the visit by being the master of ceremonies at a watermelon cutting for the town and for visiting news people.

The mayor of the city, Floyd Johnson, is also a member of the church. James Yates is the pastor.

Yates was away in a revival this past Sunday, the first following the President's visit. Who filled the pulpit? Owen Cooper.

The occasion for the town meeting in the gymnasium was a visit by the President of the United States. When he walked in the townspeople and those from Yazoo County stood and applauded. But it was not the first standing ovation of the evening. Shortly before the President arrived Cooper had walked in. Spontaneously the crowd was on its feet and applauding.

Pastor Yates was questioned about this later. He said that even though people might not agree with all of Cooper's decisions and philosophies, they could not help but appreciate what he was attempting to do for the city and to respect him for it.

The people were orderly and respectful of the President also. They were proud that he was participating in the first assembly program in their new high school gymnasium.

The lack of air conditioning did not bother them. They were attentive throughout and asked questions ranging from reparation for Vietnam to federal funding abortions, conservation of natural resources, human rights, energy conservation, tax relief, and aid to the poor.

They applauded when he removed his coat.

The President said human rights are a part of America's consciousness. He added that he is not in favor of the United States paying any money for the reparation of Vietnam as he answered 19 questions with openness and candor.

He said, "I don't know all the answers, and I'm learning every day." He added that "there are a lot of Americans who want to see me suc-

Swor's Mother, Sister Die

Mrs. C. C. Johnson, mother of Chester Swor of Jackson, died Sunday evening. Funeral services were at Wright and Ferguson Funeral Home on Monday afternoon.

On Monday morning, at 9:15, his sister, Mrs. Allie DaCosta of Memphis died. Funeral services for Mrs. DaCosta were held Wednesday morning in Memphis, and she was buried Wednesday afternoon in Clinton.

Both Mrs. Johnson, who was 97, and Mrs. DaCosta, 75, had been in failing health for some time.

Swor is an internationally known Baptist youth leader.

ceed in being a good President" because to the extent he does succeed their lives will be better. He told them he hopes the meetings such as this one will serve to increase their confidence in government because "the government in Washington is your government."

As he left the gymnasium he asked the crowd to "pray for me every day."

He had stood in the sweltering heat and answered questions for an hour and 10 minutes.

Noting the 1,000 fans moving throughout the gymnasium, he said it is time for the rest of the country to see Southern self-propelled air conditioning in action.



Lawrence Au of San Francisco led a Chinese Lay Evangelism School last week in Greenville. Top attendance at the school which was conducted at FBC, Greenville, was 35. Sponsored by the Cooperative Missions and Evangelism Departments of the MBCB and the Baptist Home Mission Board, the School was the first to be held by the Chinese people in Mississippi.

Chinese Evangelism School

Pastor of the First Chinese Southern Baptist Church in San Francisco, Lawrence Au, led the Chinese Lay Evangelism School in Greenville. Au holds a master of religious education, a master of divinity and a doctor of ministries degree all from Golden Gate Seminary.



Campers Plan State Organization

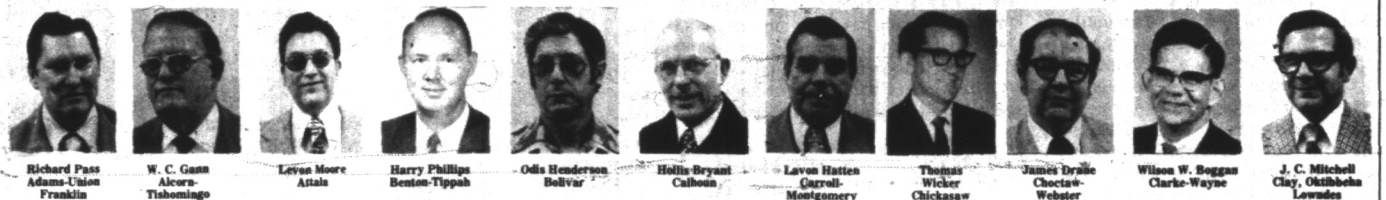
The fourth national rally of Campers On Mission was held July 15-17 on Toledo Bend Reservoir near Many, Louisiana. There were 113 families from fifteen states in attendance. Eleven families from Mississippi were there.

The folks from Mississippi met briefly and laid groundwork for organizing a local chapter of C.O.M. in Mississippi: Temporary officers were elected to serve until permanent officers are selected. Temporary officers now serving are Sid Cruthirds, president; Ralph Henson, vice president; John Mattox, secretary - treasurer; Bob Leavell and Golden Mason, co-chaplains.

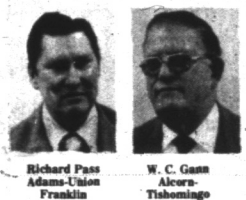
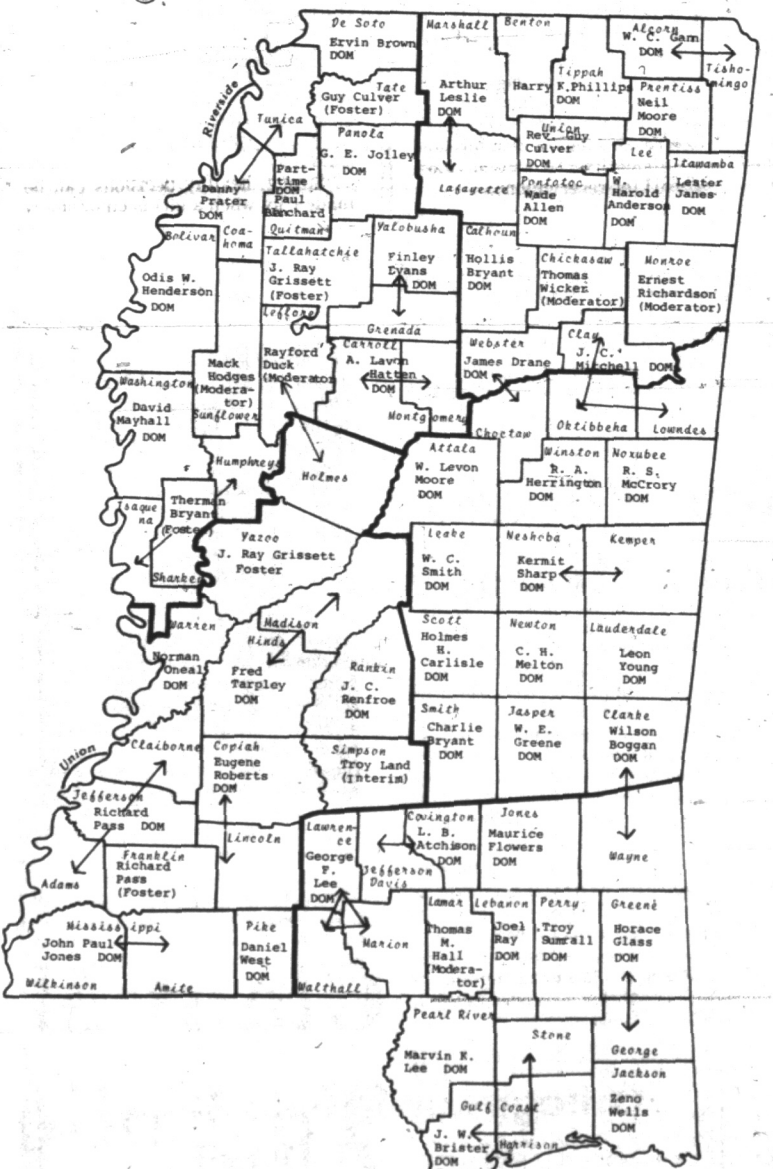
A Mississippi rally will be held September 30 to October 2, 1977 at Okatibbee Lake Water Park near Meridian. At that rally an organization will be presented for adoption and permanent officers elected.

Campers interested in sharing their faith with others are invited to attend. This is a way of becoming actively involved in the Christian Service Corps missionary work through our Special Ministries Division of the Home Mission Board.

Reservations should be made as soon as possible with Ralph Henson, 2727 State Boulevard, Meridian, MS. 39301, or phone him at (601)-485-4219.



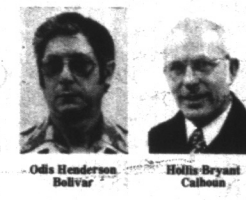
ASSOCIATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AUGUST 7, 1977



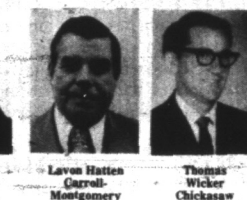
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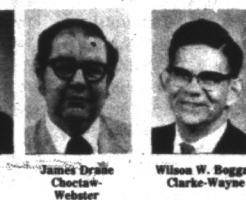
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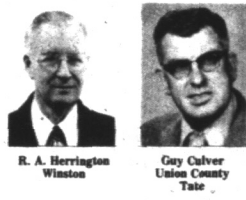
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Odie Henderson
Bolivar



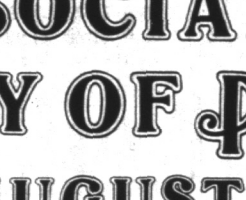
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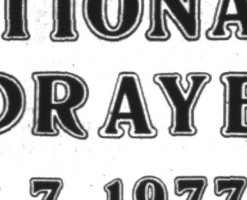
R. A. Harrington
Winston



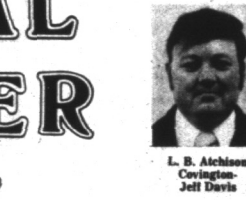
Guy Culver
Union County
Tate



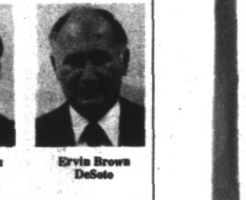
Norman E. O'Neal
Warren



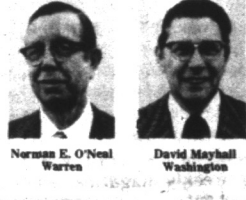
David Mayhall
Washington



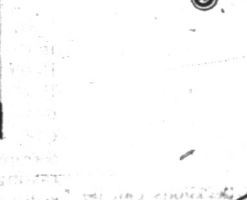
Mack Hodges
Sunflower



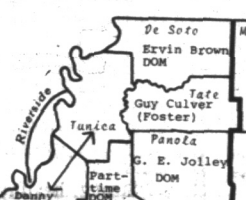
J. Ray Grissett
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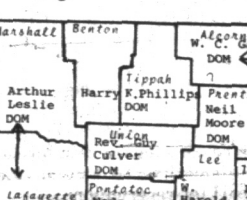
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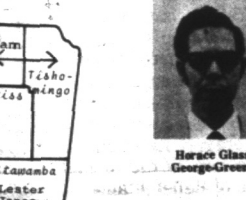
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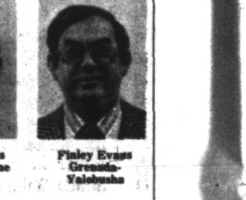
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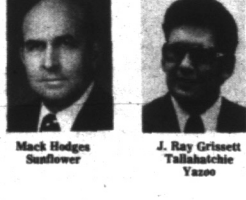
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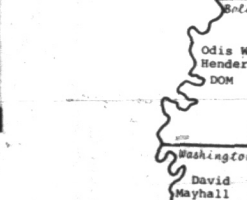
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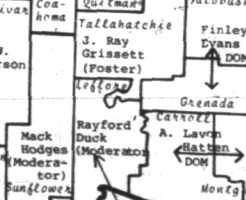
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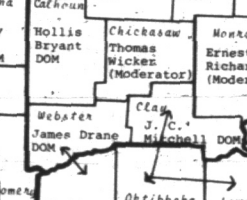
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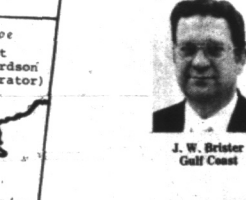
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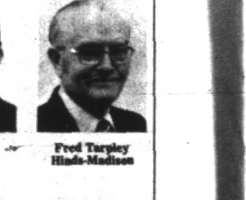
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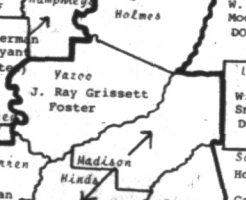
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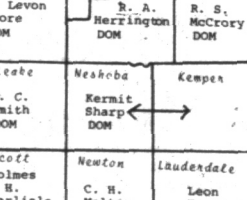
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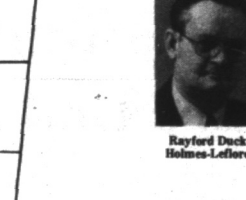
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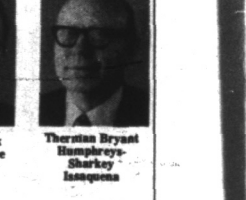
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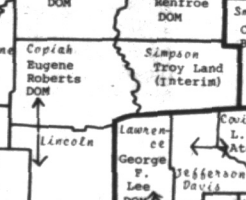
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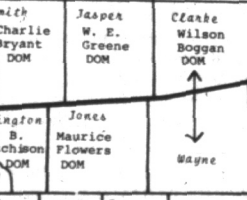
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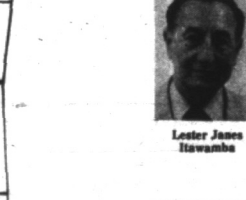
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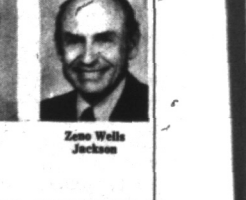
David Mayhall
Washington



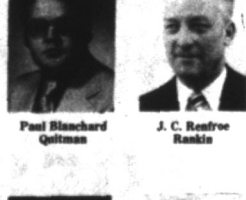
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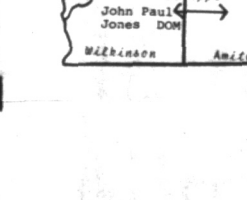
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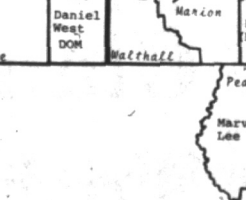
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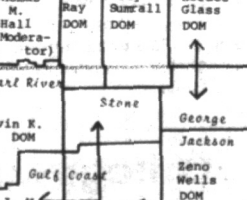
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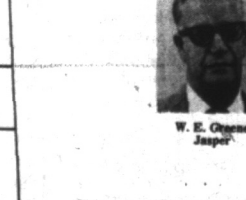
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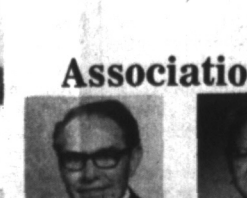
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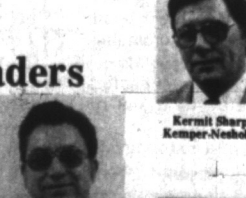
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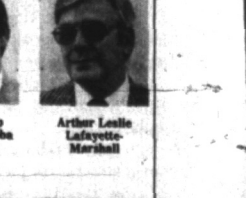
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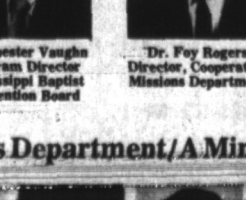
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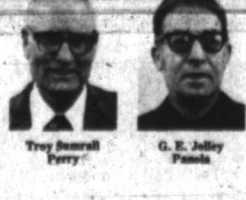
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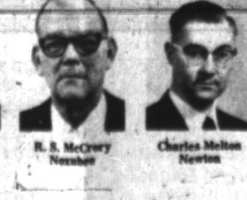
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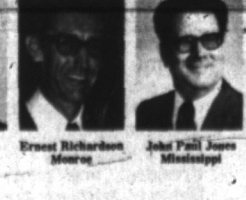
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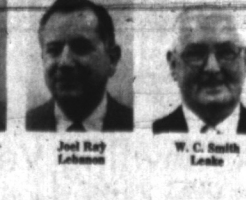
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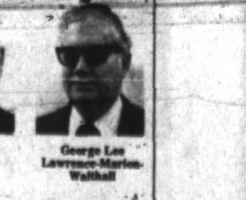
David Mayhall
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President Jimmy Carter waves to the crowd as he enters the Yazoo City High School Gymnasium. Standing at the right side of the picture is Gene Triggs, president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Triggs is an executive with Mississippi Chemical Corporation and a deacon at First Baptist Church, Yazoo City.—Photo by Tim Nicholas



Slow-Pitch Softball Tournaments

Pictured behind the trophies to be given at this year's Mississippi Baptist slow-pitch softball tournament for men and women are (left to right): John Brabam, chairman of the recreation committee of Hinds-Madison Association; R. W. Brister, director of the associational softball league; and Fred Tarpley, associational director of missions. The tournament will be double elimination. Playing dates will be Aug. 11, 12, 13 and continue on Aug. 19 and 20. Fifty dollar entry fee must be in before a team is entered in the tournament (will not be returned once the brackets are drawn up). The fee and the roster sheet signed by the pastor must be in by Aug. 3. Each player must be 15 before June 1, 1977 and must be a member of the church which sponsors the team (no all-star teams).

Associational Missions Resource Leaders



Cooperative Missions Department/A Ministry of the Cooperative Program



NAMES IN THE NEWS

Quitman Association has called Paul Blanchard as a part-time missionary for their association. He will give the mornings of each week to associational work and the rest of his time to the pastoring of Blue Lake Church.

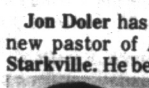
Barry Allen Swartz was recently licensed to the gospel ministry by First Church, Verona. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Swartz of Tupelo. Swartz is serving as interim minister of music in Rocky Point Church, Carthage.

Jimmy Craft, a 1973 graduate of Miss. College with a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary, is beginning his full-time ministry in evangelism. He is married to the former Jackie Cox, and they reside in Gulfport with their two daughters, Amy and Sarah. Craft has conducted many revivals and youth retreats in Mississippi and in numerous other states. He can be contacted at 406 McGuire Circle, Gulfport MS 39501 or called at (601) 863-1771.

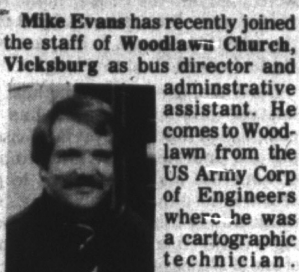


Raleigh Lane is the new minister of education at Woodland Hills Church, Jackson. A graduate of Texas A&M, he received the master of divinity and master of religious education degrees from Southwestern Seminary. He has served with the US Army for two years. Mrs. Lane is also a native of Texas. She received her bachelor of music degree from North Texas State University. James E. Scirrat is pastor.

Jon Doler has been named the new pastor of Adatan Church, Starkville. He began his duties on June 5. Doler is a native of Calhoun County, and is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. He has served as pastor of churches in Calhoun and Newton Counties. Doler is married to the former Scotti Wilson of Bellefontaine.



Mike Evans has recently joined the staff of Woodlawn Church, Vicksburg as bus director and administrative assistant. He comes to Woodlawn from the US Army Corp of Engineers where he was a cartographic technician. Evans has been at Woodlawn since Feb. 1974 serving as bus captain and deacon before being bus director. The church has been providing bus service for four years for residents of Warren County. They operate a fleet of twelve buses in the southern part of the county serving the area between Yokena and Redwood in the northern part of the county.



Mary Smith, a student at Blue Mountain, has been designated by the Home Mission Board as WMU's summer missionary for 1977. Mary is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mickey Smith of Houlka, Mississippi, and a member of First Baptist, New Albany.



Mary is giving WMU tourists, June 3-August 12, a Bold Mission educational experience. Among the many treasures she will show to visitors is Lottie Moon's trunk and tiny shoes of Chinese women with bound feet. She will also train teachers in the Birmingham area in using WMU's new Trans-Com materials to start Big A Bible Clubs.

The national WMU office building in Birmingham, AL, is open weekdays from 8:00 to 4:30. To arrange a tour, a Bold Mission educational experience, call (205) 322-6511 for reservations.

Three Baptist Churches Burn In North Georgia

CLERMONT, Ga. (BP) — Under an arching oak tree about 50 yards from the smoldering ruins of Christian Hills Baptist Church, 20 or so members set up folding lawn chairs for prayer services two days after arsonists burned the church to the ground — and gutted two others nearby.

Pastor J. Alvin Smith said the Southern Baptist church, which was only partially covered by insurance, would cost \$350,000 to \$400,000 to rebuild, "but we are going to rebuild."

Center Grove and Zion Hill Baptist Churches in Nearby White County were gutted from the fires, which officials said were caused by arsonists and "didn't just happen, but were planned."

Christian Hills' red-brick structure, built by the congregation and completed in 1971, was burned the evening of July 4. The 300-seat sanctuary burned to the ground and the two educational wings received heavy smoke, water and heat damage.

The other churches also plan to rebuild.

Truett-McConnell College in Cleveland, Ga., offered its facilities to all three churches. Center Grove Church, however, planned to meet in the basement of its educational wing and Christian Hills Church was making arrangements to use a nearby building. Zion Hill Church had not responded.

Nearly six years ago, members of Christian Hills watched in helpless horror as the six-year old daughter of their former pastor was burned to death in a trailer fire.

Despite this tragedy and the recent fire, one woman at the prayer meeting insisted, "It will pull the people closer together."

The people of Christian Hills are beginning a building fund and one of these days they'll rebuild.

Until then, said Pastor Smith, "We may just pitch a big tent under the big oak."

Abortion Not Answer, Says Center Director

GLORIETA, N. M. (BP) — Abortion is not the answer to problem pregnancies, a maternity and adoption center director told 1,600 Southern Baptists attending the Bold Mission Leadership Conference here.

Mary Dan Kuhnle, director of Sellers Home, New Orleans, called abortion "a nasty business, something real, not something you just read about in a newspaper."

"Every child born in Sellers could have been aborted. It is with courage and faith that a girl chooses not to have an abortion and to carry that child, to carry that social stigma that still exists, to carry some of the non-acceptance from her church."

Currently 26 girls, mostly Southern Baptists, live at Sellers, Mrs. Kuhnle said.

The maternity and adoption center, operated by Southern Baptists through their Home Mission Board, has a three-year list of couples waiting to adopt white babies, the director said.

In explaining the ministry through Sellers, Miss Kuhnle said she teaches the young girls that "capacity once acted upon calls for responsibility — once reproduction is under way they have a responsibility to plan for that child."

"Strong, healthy decisions can be made only when a girl is emotionally

supported in an atmosphere of positive acceptance," the director explained. Miss Kuhnle was one of 12 home and foreign missionaries who addressed the church and associational WMU and Brotherhood leaders at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center.

The Bold Mission conference was sponsored by the Brotherhood Commission and Woman's Missionary Union.

Newsbriefs In The World Of Religion



Fort Worth (BP) — A major factor in the growth of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission is Paul M. Stevens' commitment to his denomination and to broadcasting quality in content and technology, according to the June 27 issue of Broadcasting, weekly magazine devoted to radio and TV.

New York (RNS) — Henini Ministries, popularly known as Jews for Jesus, have filed suit against the Long Island Council of Churches, charging that it has made "false and defamatory" statements about the Hebrew Christian group. The suit involves a statement issued by the Council's board of governors to its 600-member churches and area synagogues that expressed concern about "the alleged dishonest conversionary tactics employed by such groups as Jews for Jesus, B'nai Yeshua (another Hebrew Christian group) and the Unification Church (of the Rev. Sun Myung Moon)."

Minneapolis (RNS) — A homosexual-run development firm here wants to open an opulent bathhouse-hotel for homosexuals — opposite to Billy Graham's international headquarters. George Wilson, executive vice-president of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, said he was not amused by the plans of Bunyan and Company's plans to buy and renovate the Bellevue Hotel. Thus far, the firm, incorporated specifically for this project, has little money and has been unable to find investors, gay or straight.

Washington, D. C. (RNS) — The U. S. Supreme Court has ruled that states may not impose the death penalty for the rape of an adult woman on the grounds that the punishment is "grossly disproportionate and excessive." The Court held 7-2 that a Georgia law making rape a capital offense violates the Eighth Amendment ban on cruel and unusual punishment.

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Music Course

Fundamentals of Music will be taught during the August 4 Training Day at the Baptist Building in Jackson, which begins at 9:30 a.m. The course was omitted from an earlier announcement in the Baptist Record.

PRISONERS BIBLE CRUSADE, INC.
P. O. BOX 999
PISCATAWAY, NJ 08854
Free distribution of Bibles in Prison Report for June
Greetings from the Crusade. 32,096 Bibles has been given to Prisoners with your help. Our grateful thanks to each one for their help in this part of God's work. We receive letters from concern people asking how they can help the Crusade. Here are three ways: 1. Pray for the Crusade, prayer will move God and Men, James 5:16. 2. Just \$2.00 per month will purchase, package and payfreight for one Bible to some Prisoner behind bars. You can join others who are donating \$2.00 each month to send God's Word behind bars. 3. Through faith claim ISA. 55:11 that God will accomplish His purpose in life of the Prisoner who receives the Bible that your donation each month makes possible. Send all donations, which are tax deductible, to the: Prisoners Bible Crusade Box 999 Piscataway, NJ 08854

Clarke Students Minister To Choctaws

"We've had marvelous experiences working with and worshipping with the Choctaw young people up at the center (Philadelphia) this year," exulted a small group of Clarke College students who were being interviewed about their BSU ministry this past school year.

These student leaders, from three to five of them, have driven up every single Wednesday night of the college year to have a forty-five minute service with the Choctaw youth who are in boarding school at the Choctaw Indian Center and who are friends of Mr. and Mrs. Dolton Haggan, Baptist Home Missionaries. Thirty-five or more boys and girls attended each week. They come because they want to and because they find something satisfying, not because of pressure exerted.

"Why, it's been exciting and... and... thrilling, and just great," exclaimed Kim Calhoun, BSU Missions Chairman, from Puckett, Miss. We get a different person to speak each time, but we have the same person serve as song leader." Dennis Maddox, New Orleans, La., has served as song leader for this past semester and Kim plays the piano.

The Choctaws love to sing; they like to learn new hymns and are delighted to try the newest choruses (sometimes with motions). They happily participate in special musical numbers and use new Baptist Hymnals which are furnished by the Center.

What kind of messages do the speakers bring? "They work hard to prepare something spiritual and practical that will really meet specific needs of the boys and girls and they keep it brief." The Clarke students feel a deep personal interest in the Indians and their caring can be felt as they speak. Of course, it is effective, and the response is good. This is the only worship service many of the youths have for they come from homes that are not religiously oriented.

Danny Burnham, BSU Ministries Chairman, from Puckett, Miss., said, "The Choctaws are by nature somewhat reticent and it took quite a while to win their affection and confidence. For months I worked at it, but time and patience paid off." Jenni DeSilva, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, said that she prayed definitely to be used of God to demonstrate His love and find a way into their hearts. God was pleased with that prayer and answered it. One of the Clarke students ventured that an especially moving experience came as one Choctaw youth prayed aloud in the Choctaw language and

Clarksters and the Choctaws worshipped together as he prayed.

Danny and Kim were asked if there had been any conversions as the result of these services held regularly over such a long period. They said that they had been advised not to give an invitation for a personal commitment, but one night the urge was strong to present Christ as Saviour and ask for a response. That night nine young people came forward and at a later date two more came! It was a holy hour! Immediately the Clarke students began to lovingly and prayerfully counsel the new converts, and they continued as they sensed the genuineness of the decisions. This was the glorious climax of the fellowship, worship, and ministry.

Mrs. Dolton Haggan, who is always present at the meetings, continues to express gratitude to the Clarke students for representing Mississippi Baptists in this beautiful ministry.

NOTE: This article was written by Mrs. W. L. Compere, wife of the retired President of Clarke College, following a visit to the Center with the Clarke students and an interview with the leaders of this BSU ministry. J. B. Costilow is Director of BSU activities at Clarke.



Kim Calhoun and three of the Choctaw youth.

Happiness is the legitimate fruitage of love and service. Set happiness before you as an end, no matter in what guise of wealth, or fame, or oblivion even, and you will attain it. — But renounce it and seek the pleasure of God, and that instant is the birth of your own. — ARTHUR S. HARDY

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The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Editorials

Charm And Yazoo City

Without question, Yazoo City is one of the charming spots of our nation. Probably President Jimmy Carter did not know this when he first announced he was to visit the city. He knows now.

He couldn't help but notice the charm. The city has it in abundance, and the citizens really turned it on for the President.

Perhaps the President was glad to be back in Southern surroundings, but he was relaxed, personable, and at home as he took off his coat, rolled up his sleeves, and leaned on the podium. He was not without charm himself.

The citizens responded in kind. They were enjoying the occasion, and they were orderly and respectful. The ever-watchful secret service went through all its paces, but its efforts were simply routine exercises it must continue. The citizens were just as determined as the secret service that nothing would spoil this moment in history.

Baptists played a big part in the Yazoo City visit. The home of the Owens Coopers provided the accommoda-

tions for the President, but Cooper said this was symbolic. The entire town was the host, he declared.

On Sunday morning before the visit an NBC television crew taped a part of the service at First Baptist Church, where the Coopers are members and James Yates is the pastor. Later Carol Joy Yates, the pastor's daughter, played the piano during an entertainment period the town presented for visiting newsmen.

Yates said the atmosphere in the city for several days preceding the visit was almost like a carnival. Nobody was getting much work done except preparing for the visit, he added, and he took time to chauffeur the writer from place to place in the city. Then

on the night of the President's visit the Yates family was a gracious host for the writer.

Jerry Clower, a member of First Baptist Church, was master of ceremonies at a watermelon cutting for the townspeople and newsmen on Wednesday evening. On Thursday evening Carter praised Clower highly in opening remarks, though he was not aware that Clower was present at the meeting.

The mayor of the city, Floyd Johnson, is also a member of First Baptist Church; and he led in the city's preparation for the visit.

Another Baptist, Charles Jackson, gave up his home next door to the Coopers for the night. Secret Service personnel installed phones in every room of the Jackson home; and finally Jackson said, "If it would make your job easier, I'll move out."

"Would you mind?" asked the one of the secret service staff.

Before he left the house, however, while no secret service people were around, Jackson said he had to find out to what the phones were connected. He picked up one and a voice said, "May I help you." He answered, "I am a private citizen sitting in my own home, and I wondered what this phone was hooked to." "You've got the White House switchboard," was the reply.

Besides being a deacon at First Baptist Church, Jackson is a senior vice president at Mississippi Chemical Corp. and a city alderman.

The President made a distinct impression under difficult cir-

cumstances. It was hot, and he was fielding questions on an impromptu basis. He did very well.

The next morning the writer was welcomed into the Cooper home for a visit of more than an hour of just chatting about the events of the past evening and earlier that morning.

Here, too, are a charming host and hostess and a man who has accomplished much and yet is unassuming and unpretentious. To attempt to enumerate his endeavors is to present no more than a partial list. One immediately thinks, however, of having a major role in the establishment of one of Mississippi's large industries. The administration building there carries his name. He has been Southern Baptist Convention vice-president and president and chairman of the Executive Committee. He has initiated far-flung missions efforts around the world to furnish much needed equipment to denominational mission organizations and to get lay people into area where missionaries cannot find acceptance. He is the chief supporter for at least two such organizations.

He is an innovator and a catalyst. He conceives great ideas, and then he makes them happen.

It was interesting and a thrill to be in the meeting where the President of the United States was and to observe his personality and to feel his charm.

It was just as much a thrill, however, to sit for an hour and visit with Owen Cooper. Mrs. Cooper was not in the room a great deal of the time. She was

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entertaining the Associated Press. Yates, the Coopers' pastor, and the writer talked with Mr. Cooper until an NBC television crew came in. Then we went upstairs to see the bed where the President slept. Mrs. Cooper showed us a small bronze plaque that will be attached to the headboard.

So the bed will not be roped off as a museum piece. Through the years others will be sleeping in the bed where the President slept.

Mantee Baptist Church! A Church Commissioned

By Dennis Lee Johnsey, Pastor
Mantee Baptist Church

"Whereas, the First Baptist Church of Mantee, Mississippi recognizes that its primary function is to carry the message of Christianity to the world and to establish a practical means of putting into effect the Great Commission as expressed by Jesus Christ in Matthew 28:19-20. These are the opening words of the resolution establishing the Mantee Gospel Ministry Fund. Through the faithfulness of this mission-minded church an endowment was given for mission work in 1968. This money was placed in a trust fund from which the proceeds go directly to mission preaching projects around the world.

Through the years mission trips have been made to South Africa, India, South America, Mexico, Montana, and recently to the Philippines. From these trips there have been over 760 professions of faith. This has been vivid proof to a rural church that it can have an outreach in evangelism. Although we are a church of only 287 resident members, we do have a definite part in preaching the Gospel around the world.

The productivity of these mission trips does not only lie in the number of professions of faith. The honorable Louis B. Santos, mayor of Davao City in the Philippines, said, "You Baptists are greater ambassadors than Henry Kissinger. I invite you to come back and share with the Filipinos your love for God." This comes from a man with a political background and a Roman Catholic belief. The blessings the preacher receives from these missions exceeds everyone's. Let me share with you some experiences I had on such a mission to the Philippine Islands.

Along with eight other men I left the United States to do Bible studies in Davao City on the island of Mindanao. We arrived in Manila after two days travel tired, sleepy, and anxious. Sunday morning we left Manila at 5:30 to fly to Davao City to begin our work. While boarding the plane I noticed that I was separated from my companions. I took my seat next to a Filipino. He was a middle-aged man. His skin was darker than mine like most of the Orientals I had seen. His hair was cut close to his head.

As the airplane began to taxi away from the terminal I introduced myself and asked his name and occupation. His name was Juan Aquilos. He was a businessman from Davao who traveled frequently to Manila. He had just finished a business venture and was returning home for the Holy Week. The people of the Philippines are known for their hospitality so Juan began asking questions about me. He asked my occupation and as I told him he asked me a perplexing question.

"Do you know Rex Humbard?" I had traveled half way around the world to tell these heathen about Christ and this man was asking me about a television pastor. My orientation had just begun. "Yes, I know him, but not personally," I replied.

"Oh, my family does not miss his programs, they are great! Then you are with 'I Found It'?"

While in Manila I had learned that Campus Crusade was in the midst of an evangelistic campaign in Southeast Asia. The slogan of this campaign was 'I Found It'.

"No, I am with the Southern Baptists," I answered.

"Oh, the Baptist Hour."

"Yes."

Again I was startled at the exposure this man had of the Gospel. Certainly

the Lord had opened a door to witness to this man. Quietly I said a prayer to God and asked for His leadership. Our conversation continued during that hour flight and Juan told me of his Catholic background. We discussed Billy Graham, Rex Humbard, and the Baptist Hour. As the discussion continued I sensed a strong desire on the part of this man to know more about Jesus Christ and salvation. I presented the simple steps of faith and Juan asked Christ to come into his life.

The Lord was trying to show me what His word had already said. He had been before me preparing the way that I should go. Also, He was there with me opening doors that I might share my faith. It was a marvelous experience.

While staying in Davao I acted as most tourists.

Several young boys ran up and said, "Shine Joe?"

Then a young man walked over to me and asked, "Are you Russian?"

I turned around to see if someone was standing beside me to whom he might be speaking. There was not anyone else in sight. "No, I am an American."

"You are just the person I have been looking for today," he said. "I am in big trouble. I have problems with my home, family, and job. I do not like to go to the Priest and always ask him to pray for me."

With that word I jumped with the reply. "Well let me tell you about the

High Priest and how you may talk with Him."

We sat down at a refreshment stand and continued to talk. He was amazed at the privilege he had of going to Jesus and asking Him to come into His life. Our conversation lasted only ten minutes. As I left I handed him a tract and asked him if he would ask Jesus to come into his life. While I was walking away I saw that he had cornered two men who were Muslims and was sharing with them the news about Christ he had just heard.

These are only two of the opportunities I had to share my witness in the Philippines. People like Juan and Fred were on every street corner and in every house. They are waiting for a word from God.

After I arrived in Mississippi I was able to witness some of the spiritual growth that had taken place in our church. Individuals who wanted a part in this mission had personally contributed to the trip's expenses. The Trust Fund is still available to send someone else on a mission trip this year. Our deacons met recently and decided to pursue other mission projects. Preparation is being made now to sponsor at least two mission trips a year. We are considering what we can do for missionaries who are on the mission field. This is above our regular offerings to the Cooperative Program, Lotte Moon, and Annie Armstrong. Mantee Baptist Church wants to do its part in fulfilling the great commission. We want to carry the message of Christianity to the world!

Cooper Spearheads Model Yazoo City Energy Plan

By Jim Newton

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP) — While the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) was adopting a resolution expressing support of "our national leaders in their research and development of a domestic energy policy," a former president of the convention extolled the merits of community action to do something locally about the energy crisis.

Retired Mississippi industrialist Owen Cooper, SBC president, 1973-75, took the leadership role in creating and organizing a 40-member Energy Conservation Committee for Yazoo City, Miss.

Asked how the project was initiated, Cooper said, "We requested the city council to adopt a resolution creating such a committee." Then asked who he meant by "we," Cooper confessed, "Well, I guess I'm using the editorial 'we' in this case."

"I talked to some folks in the community and got good support, so we went to the city council with the proposal that Yazoo City not wait for Washington to develop a national energy program, but organize a committee to do something about it now, right here in Yazoo City," Cooper said.

Cooper, who headed the Yazoo City-based Mississippi Chemical Corp., the world's largest ammonium fertilizer manufacturing cooperative, before he retired, said it has only recently dawned on him that the world has a limited supply of hydrocarbons and petroleum.

"We've got to come to the point that instead of 'pocketbook' decisions for today, we will make 'grandchildren' decisions for tomorrow," he declared.

Explaining what he meant by 'pocketbook' decisions, Cooper said

that after President Jimmy Carter's televised broadcast outlining his new energy proposals, almost everyone reacted on the basis of how it would affect his or her personal pocketbook.

"Instead, we have to make our decisions on the basis of how they will affect our grandchildren. If I drive a Cadillac today, will it force my grandchild to ride a bicycle in the future?" Cooper questioned.

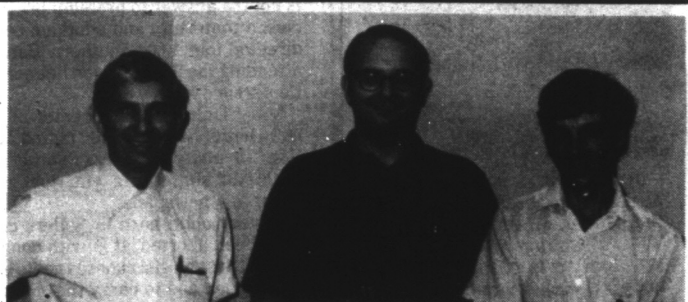
To do something "now" about the energy crisis, the Yazoo City Energy Conservation Committee has organized 40 different subcommittees, involving as many as 200 people, to tackle every conceivable aspect of conserving energy in the city.

They've hired an executive director to coordinate it all, and have written to every national agency concerned about energy conservation, every gas and petroleum company, and every resource they can find to get more information.

Baptists, the predominant denomination in the city of 12,000 population in Mississippi's delta region, are also predominant on the committee.

Cooper is the chairman. His former right-hand man at the Mississippi Chemical Corp., Gene Triggs, is vice chairman. Country Humorist Jerry Clower is as vocal on the Energy Conservation Committee as he is on television. All are Baptist laymen and deacons, as is the mayor of Yazoo City, Floyd Johnson.

Although rattling off ideas that the committee has for doing something practical, Cooper emphasized that neither he nor the others were trying to dominate. Rather, he said they encourage each of the 40 subcommittees to be as creative as possible in coming



Clifford Bruffey, Rodney Webb, and Jerry Jamison are shown left to right. They were involved in an Evangelism School for the Deaf at Calvary Church, Tupelo.

Evangelism School For Deaf Held In Tupelo

By Annie Laurie Allen

Calvary Baptist Church, Tupelo, was host to an Evangelism School for the Deaf July 15-17, 1977. Clifford Bruffey, Missionary to the Deaf, Washington, D. C. area, and Chaplain, Gallaudet College, taught and preached, using the WIN Series as a basis for his Friday and Saturday messages. Simultaneously, Rodney Webb, Language Missions, Cooperative Missions Department, Jackson, taught an Advanced Sign Language Class for Interpreters. Webb planned and made arrangements for the weekend. Jerry D. Jamison, Minister to the Deaf, Calvary, assisted with the weekend activities.

A numerical record of the School shows that seventy-seven people actively participated. Forty-two of these were deaf or hard of hearing, twenty-two were interpreters and children who came with their parents, and thirteen were members of Calvary not usually associated with the Deaf Ministry — volunteers and staff members. Many of these heard twelve

hours of preaching and teaching, listening avidly — a record to be envied by any Minister of the Gospel. Twenty-three attended Friday night, forty-five on Saturday, and fifty-seven on Sunday, for an average attendance of forty-two.

Dennis McDowell, president of the silent class, presided over many of the sessions and also led the singing. He directed the choir, which was one of the features of the Sunday Worship Service. Wilma McDowell, Secretary, served as Registrar. Other officers of the Silent Class are Becky Childs, Vice-President, and Larry Dew, Treasurer, who also participated. Peggy Terrell of Childersburg, Ala., Arthur Boren of Corinth, Miss., and Dennis McDowell reverse interpreted.

Members of the Deaf Ministry Council at Calvary are Shelia Salemi, Dennis McDowell, Sue Washburn — WMU Representative, Larry Otis — Deacon Representative, and Annie Laurie Allen, Director. Gladys Carter and Tom Washburn interpret the regular morning worship services every week. Gladys Carter is also Sunday School Teacher, having served for five years, since the program first began. Calvary offers an interpreter for all services of the church. Deaf people are urged to participate in all programs.

For the past two years Jerry D. Jamison has preached to the Deaf in a separate service on every fourth Sunday of the month. These fourth Sundays have been well attended. On these Sundays members bring food, which they share at noon and have good fellowship after the services. Jamison concludes his ministry at Calvary at the end of July, having accepted a position with the Arkansas School for the Deaf, Little Rock.

On August 7, 1977 Calvary Baptist Church will present the Talking Hands Award to Tom Washburn, who has interpreted the songs and in every way has supported and promoted the ministry to the deaf for more than the required two years.



Montana Mission Food

Thirty-Eighth Avenue Church, Hattiesburg, youth choir accompanied their pastor, James McLemore (left), on a mission tour to Montana July 5-18. Also pictured with the food collected by church members for the group are Mrs. Ernestine Lowery and Jimmy McCaleb. McCaleb, minister of music, also made the trip. McLemore conducted a revival on an Indian reservation in Poplar and the youth worked in Vacation Bible Schools. Those leading the teacher's training classes were Mrs. McLemore, Mrs. Ron Reed, Mrs. Rita Bush and Mrs. Carlos Boyte. Other adults who made the trip were D. E. Whitfield and Benny Lowery. The 29 member choir presented the musical "Tell It Like It Is" enroute to and in Montana.

The gifts to Home Missions Week of Prayer are listed through June 30 with 1199 churches participating. At that time total gifts amounted to \$592,654.59

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AUGUST, 1977

Sunday School	YOUTH SUMMER BIBLE STUDY. Additional Bible study opportunity for Youth during the summer. BACKYARD BIBLE CLUBS and MISSION BIBLE SCHOOLS are possibilities for every church. Find areas in your community to conduct these additional Bible School activities. Your Associational Director of Missions or Vacation Bible School Director may have some suggested meeting places.
Church Music	August 21-28 CHURCH MUSIC WEEK. Activities and plans suggested for churches will include churchwide study courses appropriate to the needs and interest of church members music leaders, and music group members. HYMN OF THE MONTH: "Redeemed" (Ada), page 444, New Hymnal
Student Work	ON-TO-COLLEGE DAY — Appropriate Sunday in August. A day to alert each church member to his relationship and involvement with college students connected with the congregation — Christian and/or non-Christian. Each church member is challenged to accept his role — as a new college student, returning college student, parent of college student, faith sharer, affirmer, supporter, of college students. Posters and suggested actions for the program are mailed to all pastors in July. It is a good time to present each student with subscription to THE STUDENT. (Presentation certificates may be ordered, free of charge.)
Church Administration	August 1 Reminder: order literature for October, November and December.
Stewardship	Make plans for promoting your state mission offering. Secure promotional materials from your state office. Encourage your church to increase gifts to associational missions and the Cooperative Program in next year's budget. Place articles on ministries supported by the Cooperative Program in your church publications.



A Woman's World Reaches For
Beyond the Ironing Board
Wanda Fendler

The advertising businesses around our country are shrewd. That's no news to you, though, is it? They play us Americans for everything we are. It must be that they know that all of us have at least a trace of pessimism in us, and they appeal to it, sometimes from our blind side, sometimes from our full-sight side.

The least subtle and most devastating (I have my tongue in my cheek on that word) one in the last few years was the one that said, "Next headache, use..."

No if. No maybe. Just, for sure, next headache. Giving me no option. Telling me that I'm going to have another headache, and that I may as well get the medicine on the shelf because I'm surely going to need it.

Makes me wonder how many headaches we have because we're under obligation to headache remedies! Seriously, I'm sure we have more headaches than we need to have, mostly because we do not take care of ourselves.

And I'm also wondering how much pessimism we allow ourselves because we are tuned in to wrong influences, because we are placing our delight in the wrong places. My favorite Bible verse is "Delight thyself in the Lord, and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart."

Delighting myself in the Lord gives me a bunch of options, and they are all optimistic, permanent, assuring. But if I involve myself with the wrong option, I have to blame myself for the headache. No blame goes to God when I choose wrong.

And I find out how right He is when I get involved with the right option.

It really does make for needing less aspirin!

Devotional

The Ewe Lamb

By Len Turner, pastor Colonial Heights, Jackson
II Samuel 12:1-4

This parable, Nathan's little story of the ewe lamb, stands unmatched in its beauty and in its power.

How simple it is, and yet how sharply pointed! How true, and yet how exquisitely tender! We have to turn to the parables of Jesus before we find any other so telling.

Note firstly how wisely and well Nathan played his part. This was not the first time, and it is not the last, that prophets and preachers stood in the presence of princes. In our own history there are some famous instances of the ministers of the word rebuking sovereigns. John Knox stood more than once before Queen Mary, and spoke to her almost harshly on her behavior. Andrew Melville, in audience with King James, never flinched in boldly uttering the truth. But brave as Knox was, and polished as Melville was, I think that Nathan did better than either of them. Having been sent by the Lord and having the Lord's presence with him, was not this little story of the lamb exquisitely fitted to the heart of David? Nathan was perfectly faithful to his task, yet in the performance of it, most wise and tender. Let us be sure that when we go at God's bidding, we shall not lack the necessary gifts. If He sends us out to any difficult duty, He will see to it that all our need is met.

Once more remark how clearly we observe another's faults. As Nathan went on with the tale of the rich man, you picture the flashing eye of David. You see his hand groping for his sword, his heart was so hot at that high handed work! Being extremely angry, he declared that the man must die and the lamb be restored four-fold! David discerned the sin at once. It stood out clear in the frame of another's life. We are all quick to observe another's faults and perhaps we are never readier to observe them, than when these faults in another are our own. The sins we are most apt to suspect in others, are the sins that have been playing havoc with ourselves. The vices that we are surest to detect are those that our own character have known. David was fiercely indignant at Nathan's tyrant, because he had lorded it just so himself.

Notice next how little we are acquainted with ourselves. Nathan painted David a true picture of himself, but David, in this terrible season of failure, was very ignorant of what he was, he did not recognize the prophet's portrait. In His Word, God has painted a wonderful portrait of us. It is life-like, there is no flattery in it; it shows our worst, and it reveals our best. We never really come to know ourselves until we come to know and love our Bibles. It is then that God says to us, as Nathan to David, "Thou art the man." That was the beginning of David's return into the gladness of the love of God, so to see ourselves as we are and our need of Christ is our first step to reconciliation.

Lastly, notice how simply God works upon our hearts. It was a simple story that touched the heart of David. The power of God was in it and that was enough. We must remember that God can easily use us to touch the hearts of men if we are available, usable, yielded and obedient to Him as was Nathan.

Grant Teaff To Speak At Calvary In Jackson

Grant Teaff, head football coach at Baylor University, Waco, Texas and national football coach of the year in 1974, will be the principal speaker at a special service to be held at Calvary Church in Jackson Aug. 4 at 7:30 p.m.

According to Joe H. Tuten, pastor, other features will include a 15 minute film "The Athletes" which has been shown on national television, and a period of contemporary vocal music by Charles Endsley, church organist, and Hank Wilkenson, recent graduate of Carey College, Hattiesburg.

Following the program held in the sanctuary there will be a period of fellowship, according to W. B. "Bill" McIlwain, minister of education. Everyone present at the program is invited.

Teaff's Baylor Bears in 1974 won their first Southwest Conference championship in 50 years and played in the Cotton Bowl for the first time. In

addition to his accomplishments with the football team, Teaff has been head coach of four major all-star games, an author of a best-selling autobiography, and has been recipient of an honorary doctorate degree.



Elected as a vice-president by the Baptist General Convention of Texas in 1975, this year he was elected as a trustee of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Teaff is married to the former Donell Phillips of Plainview, Texas and they have three daughters. The family is active in First Church Waco.

Teaff will be in Jackson Aug. 4-6 to participate in a coaches' clinic.

Homecoming

Homecoming is planned for Ridgecrest Church (Lebanon), celebrating its 30th anniversary on July 31. A day of activities begins with Sunday School at 10 a.m. and dinner on the ground during noon hour. Afternoon activities begins at 1:30 p.m. No night services are planned. Odell Lebo is pastor.

Life And Work For July 31

The Gods We Make

By Bill Duncan, Long Beach, First Exodus 20:4-6; Jeremiah 7:1-15

Everywhere the Israelites went there were idols. Most of the chief gods of Egypt were conceived in human form but they were depicted with physical characteristics of animals. Baal, the Canaanite god was portrayed as a warrior with a thunderbolt as a spear.



Is the god the idol or does the idol represent or personify the principle or the spirit associated with the god? Many insist they think that the god existed as a spiritual reality, separate from the idol. But the possession of the idol gave ability to control or manipulate to a greater or lesser degree the god himself. Thus, the making of images was designed to express more than an act of devotion or worship. It arose out of the desire to insure the blessing and protection of the deity, who was represented in the wood, clay or stone.

The Second Commandment prohibited (1) the representation of the Lord in an image or idol, and (2) the use of images of created beings as an aid to the worship of the Lord.

Because God is a spirit, He cannot be adequately represented by an idol. God speaks to mankind through His Word. There are many aspects of God manifested in the world of nature. Revelation is not in the form of an idol but in the living presence of the Lord. His will is not conveyed in images of brass, stone or wood but in the living word of relevance and challenge.

The idea of idolatry was incompatible with the true nature of God. He is absolutely free and sovereign. To make an idol of the Lord would have implied control of Him by the worshiper. Thou shalt not prohibit the control of the Lord by any person or power. Positively it asserts the absolute freedom and sovereignty of the Lord.

God forbade the use of images as an aid to worship. He strictly required that men should not bow down before physical objects. Images were brought into the church immediately following the conversion of the Roman emperor Constantine. The idols of the oriental and heathen religions were brought into the Christian church and used as symbols of the true God. The use of the crucifix was unknown in Christian worship until the sixth century. Inevitably, superstitious sentiments gradually clustered about the images. The images began to be treated as a

sacred object which was due special reverence and the worship of the true God was transferred to the image.

We are guilty of modern idolatry when we limit the revelation of God to an absolutely rigid form, rather than receiving the revelation through the living Word. The Word is changeless, but changes to meet the shifting conditions of every generation. Today the revelation of God is like new wine, fermenting and expanding, discontent and unable to remain in old forms. You cannot control a living Word as a brass image!

We become guilty of modern idolatry when we substitute one expression of God with the essence of God. The church is not God. The Bible is not God. All the expressions of God must supplant God but become the living evidence of His presence in our lives. God always stands beyond and above the church, Bible or ministry.

When we limit God to our own understanding we are again guilty of

idolatry. God is greater than our greatest thought. To limit God to my own understanding of Him is the essence of pride. Because we cannot limit God to human patterns of thought, our only language with God is the language of prayer and praise. Our Lord is alive! A living God who stands above the created order. He is not an idol. He moves with freedom upon those who are open to Him. He is sovereign. If we impose human limitations upon His revelation, we succumb to modern idolatry.

An idol has been defined as anything that comes between the soul of man and the true God. That which a man puts first in his life is his object of worship, and when the true God does not have first place, we are left with the inescapable truth that one is an idol worshiper. The modern man does not bow down before some horrible stone image. He is too refined and cultural for that. But he worships there, anyway.

Sunday School Lesson: International For July 31

Difficulty In Keeping The Covenant

By William Fallis
Judges 1-3

Did you think that the children of Israel answered too quickly in Exodus 19:8 (lesson for July 3) that they would do "all that the Lord hath spoken"?



They were only in their third month out of Egypt and still enjoying the thrill of freedom. The Lord promised they would be a holy nation, set apart for his purposes, and he gave the Ten Commandments as the base for which he required of them. They had some trying times in the wilderness, almost reaching the Promised Land at least twice. After they entered the Land of Promise, they still had to fight to get possession of it. But through it all, they looked forward to having a home of their own, and they seemed to stay on course with the Lord through Moses and Joshua. But Judges tells a different story.

The Lesson Explained
Israel Forsook The Lord
(Judg. 2:11-15)
The opening verses of this chapter

review the covenant agreement between the Lord and Israel. While he promised never to break the agreement, he accused the people of disobeying his command against coming to terms with the Canaanites and their religion. That idea is picked up again in the images of the Canaanite god. "Ashtaroth" is also a plural form for the name of the fertility goddess, Ashtaroth. Evidently, the Israelites were attracted by the physical appearance of the idols and also by the worship practices. Instead of toppling the altars, the Israelites honored them.

When they forsook the Lord, the writer of Judges says, his judgment came on them. The Canaanites who remained in the land probably carried on some guerilla activities, plundering their crops and betraying them in dealing with other groups or coalitions. The children of Israel were not driven out of the land, but they were unable to gain control. The Lord let the Canaanites bother them.

He Raised Up Judges
(vv. 16-19)

After explaining the basic problem of this whole period, the historian-writer went on to tell how the Lord used some men and one woman as relatively short-term leaders to maintain

some opposition to the Canaanites. They were called judges; some may have used the law of God to decide on the merits of local disputes, but most of them were deliverers or Spirit-endowed military leaders. In this passage we have a sort of preview of the book, and no particular judge is mentioned. The more prominent ones in Judges are Deborah, Gideon, and Samson, but there are ten others, one being mentioned in only one verse.

Although the judges were not great moral leaders, they were able to arouse the people against their enemies and against the pagan religions. So long as the judge lived, the people of the nation or of one tribe, as the case might be, resisted the Canaanites. But when he was gone, they yielded to pagan pressures again. But The Nations Remained (vv. 20-23)

After all that the Lord had done for Israel and all that the people had promised, their spineless behavior naturally brought divine judgment. "The anger of the Lord" does not mean merely an emotional reaction; it is a way of describing God's judgment — the response of perfect righteousness to infidelity and reject.

Although the Lord had promised

Joshua that he would help in possessing the land, the promise was always dependent on the loyalty of the people to the Lord. When they began worshipping other gods, the Lord was no longer obligated to give them victory over the Canaanites. Because they seemed to be saying that their way of dealing with their pagan neighbors was better, the Lord declared he would not drive out the other nations. Instead, he would leave the pagans to see whether Israel could "keep the way of the Lord" in that context.

Florida Trip

The youth choir of First Church Rummelstown (Perry) recently took a trip to Florida. The group, consisting of 42 members and leaders, departed July 10 for Fort Walton Beach and performed at Wright Church. The choir then traveled on to Orlando to tour Disney World. They departed for home Thursday morning, July 14, and were welcomed back at the church by several of the church members. The trip was made possible by the youth department and their workers as a result of several projects such as car washes, rummage sales, bake sales, and two walk-a-thons.



Mississippians Attend Annual Pastor's Conference

Nine states were represented by 150 pastors and their wives at the fifteenth annual Pastor's Conference. The conference was sponsored by New Orleans Seminary and was held on campus July 11-15. Pastors participated in Bible studies and received educational program information. The ministers' wives attended special conferences. Those attending from Mississippi include (left to right): back row — Don Bradley, Charles Abbey, Don and Monica Slack, Victor C. Johnson, Ricky England, C. H. Melton, and David Sellers; middle row — Clark McMurray, Landrum Leavell, Elton Moore, Charlotte Stewart, Gene Stewart, Willie Mae Roberts, Ruby Garrard, Jimmie Garrard, and Oscar Russell; seated — Jean Moore, Fred Tarpley, and Ann Tarpley.



Honor Plaque Presented To Mrs. Joe Smith

Mrs. Joe Smith (left), Vacation Bible School Director of Lowery Creek Church, Seminary, was honored with a yellow gold plaque on commencement night for her outstanding dedication during the week of VBS: June 27 - July 1. Smith is shown with Jay Slaughter (right) presenting the plaque. Slaughter was former youth director at Lowery and 1976 VBS Director, and is now serving as director of youth and activities at Indian Springs Church, Laurel. Mrs. Smith is presently serving as youth director at Lowery and is the former Wanda Herrington.